

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/777,599

Examiner

Terry L. Englund

Applicant(s)

TSENG ET AL.

Art Unit

2816

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Amdt (Jan 24, 2006).
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 4,5,7,8,11, and 14-18 (now renumbered as 1-10, respectively for printing purposes).
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

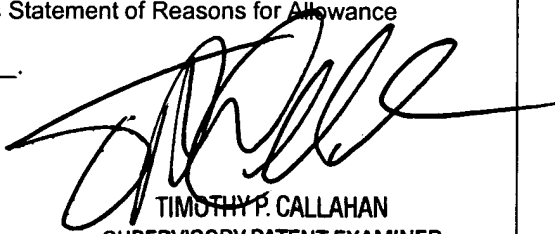
Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


TIMOTHY P. CALLAHAN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to the applicants, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 14, line 12: changed "a ground" to --the ground--.

The change addresses/corrects a minor oversight, wherein line 6 of the same claim had already recited "a ground."

RESPONSE TO AMENDMENT

The amendment submitted on Jan 24, 2006 was reviewed and considered with the following results:

Amended claim 14 overcame the objection to claims 14-18 described in the previous Office Action. Therefore, that set of objections has now been withdrawn. However, the amended change within claim 14 created a new concern, but that was a minor oversight addressed by the Examiner's Amendment above.

The cancellation of claim 12 rendered its rejection moot.

Amended claims 4, 14, and 16 overcame the rejections of claims 4-5, 7-8, 11, and 14-18 under 35 U.S.C. 112, as described in the previous Office Action. Therefore, all of those rejections have now been withdrawn.

There is no known objection, or rejection, remaining within the present application.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

None of the prior art references reviewed and considered shows or discloses a voltage level shifter that includes a switch coupled between the first and second contact points as recited within each of independent claims 4 and 14. More specifically, none of the references clearly shows or discloses the first contact point coupled to the drains of the first and second transistors; the second contact point coupled to a buffer and capacitor; and: 1) the switch being controlled by the second control signal, which is connected to the gate of the second transistor, as recited within claim 4 (upon which claims 5, 7-8, and 11 depend); or 2) the switch being controlled by the first control signal, which is connected to the gates of the first and second transistors, as recited within claim 14 (upon which claims 15-18 depend). Since there is no motivation to modify or combine any prior art reference(s) to ensure all the limitations within either one of the independent claims are met, the claims are deemed patentably distinct over the prior art of record.

Claims 4-5, 7-8, 11, and 14-18 are allowed, and have been renumbered as claims 1-10, respectively for printing purposes. The renumbering takes into account the cancellation of claims 1-3, 6, 9-10, and 12-13.

Any comments considered necessary by the applicants must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

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Any inquiry concerning this communication, or previous communications, from the examiner should be directed to Terry L. Englund whose telephone number is (571) 272-1743.

The examiner can normally be reached Monday-Friday from 7 AM to 3 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tim Callahan, can be reached on (571) 272-1740.

The new central official fax number is (571) 273-8300.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-1562.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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Terry L. Englund

31 January 2006